



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	MMU Readiness Exercise		
PROJECT LOCATION	Intersection of Highway 49 and CYA Road	COUNTY	Mariposa
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project consists of a readiness exercise for the Mariposa/Madera/Merced Unit. The readiness exercise will include a staging area approximately 2.8 acres in size where approximately 12 fire engines will park in the grass, a hose lay training area approximately 1.9 acres in size where crews will practice extending hose lays up a hill, and a hand line training area where crews will scrape a hand line along a barbed wire fence. The hand line will be approximately 3-feet wide by 2,000-feet long. The hand line is located on flat ground. The hand line crosses two swales, but does not cross any watercourses. The hand line crosses two small gullies that are associated with drainage from an old road, and are not connected to a watercourse. The project area is located adjacent to Highway 49 near the community of Mariposa. The project area would best be described as oak woodland, with an elevation of 2,258 feet above sea level. The project area is located on private property. The readiness exercise will be conducted over a three day period.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class *15304- Minor Alterations to Land*
☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under portions of 15304- Minor Alterations to Land. The project consists of a training exercise that is short in duration and minor in scope. A query of the CNDDB was conducted. Sensitive plant species in the vicinity of the proposed project area are associated with serpentine soils, and the project area does not contain serpentine soils. DFG was consulted regarding the project, and did not recommend any mitigation measures. The project area avoids watercourses. The project area was evaluated by a CAL FIRE archaeologist. There are no recorded archaeological sites within the proposed project area. The staging area and hose lay area will not result in any soil disturbance. The hand line area is not visible from the highway, and annual grass is expected to re-grow over the hand line.

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at the Mariposa Madera Merced Unit Headquarters in Mariposa.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



William E. Snyder 6/21/12
William E. Snyder, Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection